

SETUP GUIDE

Dell Inspiron



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Dell™ Inspiron™ 7000

SETUP GUIDE

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Welcome

This guide is intended for anyone who is setting up or starting to use a Dell Inspiron 7000 computer system. Both first-time and experienced computer users should complete Chapter 1 to properly configure a system for operation and for accessing the Internet. The remaining chapters describe procedures for using software and hardware.



CAUTION: Before using this guide, connect the system according to the steps on the *Getting Started* sheet. Failure to properly connect your system may result in computer malfunctions or damage.

Safety Instructions

Safety instructions for setting up and using your system are given throughout this guide. The *Reference and Troubleshooting Guide* provides detailed safety information.

Abbreviations, Acronyms, and Terms

Abbreviations, acronyms, and computer terms are identified or defined as they are used in this guide. For a complete listing, refer to the Glossary in the *Users Guide*.

Notational Conventions



NOTE: A **NOTE** conveys important information that helps you make better use of your computer system.



CAUTION: A **CAUTION** indicates either potential damage to hardware or loss of data and tells you how to avoid the problem.

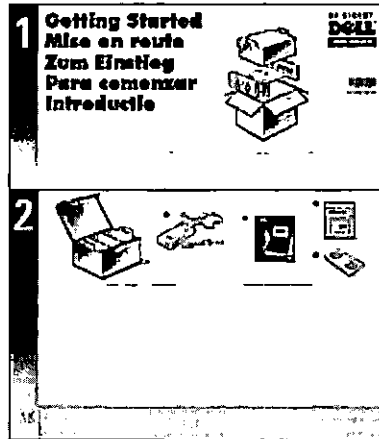


WARNING: A **WARNING** indicates the potential for bodily harm and tells you how to avoid the problem.

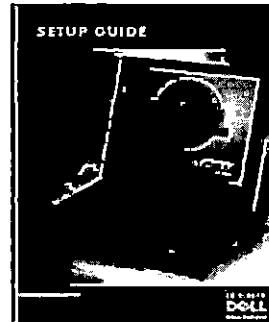
If You Need Help

If you need help while using this guide, refer to Chapter 6, "Frequently Asked Questions." For detailed troubleshooting procedures, refer to the *Reference and Troubleshooting Guide*.

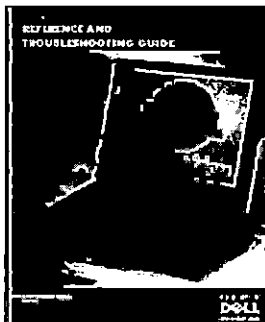
Information Resources



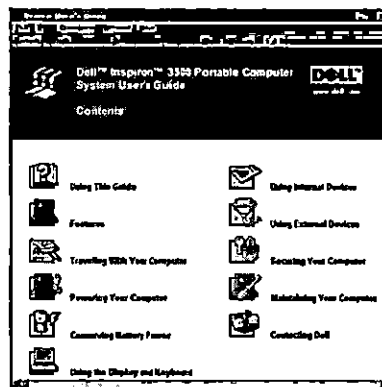
The *Getting Started* sheet provides step-by-step instructions for connecting your computer. Start with this document.



The *Setup Guide* explains how to prepare your computer for operation. It also describes how to access the Internet and use software and hardware.



The *Reference and Troubleshooting Guide* provides maintenance information, and troubleshooting procedures for solving common problems.



The *System User's Guide* contains information you need to use and maintain your portable computer.

To open the guide, double-click the **Dell System User's Guide** icon on your desktop.





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CHAPTER 1

Preparing Your Computer for Use the First Time

This chapter has the information you need to prepare your computer for first-time use. Your computer has been shipped with the Microsoft® Windows® 98 operating system already installed. Perform the setup steps provided in this guide so that the software functions properly on your Dell™ system.

Setting Up Windows 98

Initial setup of Windows 98 takes about 10 minutes. The setup process is customized according to which computer components you have.



CAUTION: Do not connect devices such as printers or install items such as PC Cards before you complete your Windows 98 setup. These devices should only be connected or installed after the operating system setup is completed. Remove any PC Cards that are installed in your portable computer.



CAUTION: Do not attach your computer to a port replicator until the Windows 98 setup is completed.



CAUTION: Do not interrupt the Windows 98 setup process. Doing so may render your computer unusable.



CAUTION: If you experience problems, do *not* use <Ctrl><Alt><Del> to reboot your system. Instead, turn off and then turn on your system. When prompted, select **Safe Recovery Mode** to continue the setup.

Complete the initial setup of Windows 98 on your Dell system by following these steps:

1. Turn on your system.



NOTE: Do *not* press <F2> if the message Press <F2> to enter Setup appears. If you press <F2> at this time, the initial setup of Windows 98 will not complete correctly. Because this message occurs each time the computer system boots (starts), you can access the Setup program at a later time.

The **Dell Software License** window appears.

2. Type **y** to continue. By typing **y**, you agree to read the software license agreement that came with your system.



NOTE: You cannot use the touch pad to complete this step. Windows 98 detects the drivers that initialize the touch pad later in the setup process.

3. The **Important Technical Support Information** screen appears and displays your Express Service Code. The Express Service Code helps expedite Dell technical support. Record the code and store it in a safe place.



NOTE: Dell's Express Service Code may not be available in all countries.

4. Type **x** to continue.



NOTE: You cannot use the touch pad to complete this step. Windows 98 detects the drivers that initialize the touch pad later in the setup process.

Your system restarts automatically.



*NOTE: Do **not** press <F2> if the message Press <F2> to enter Setup appears. If you press <F2> now, the initial setup of Windows 98 will not complete correctly. Because this message occurs each time the computer system boots (starts), you can access the Setup program at a later time.*

5. When the **Regional Settings** window appears, use the touch pad to select the regional setting for your location and then click **Next>**.

This setting tells Windows 98 how to display numbers, dates, time, and currency.



NOTE: To move the cursor with the touch pad, lightly slide your finger over the smooth sensor area of the touch pad. To select a setting, gently tap once on the surface of the touch pad. For more information about using the touch pad, see "Touch Pad" in Chapter 4.

6. In the **Keyboard Layout** window, accept the default (highlighted) keyboard from the list and then click **Next>**.



NOTE: If you want to change the default keyboard, click the keyboard of your choice.

7. In the **User Information** window, enter your name and, if applicable, company name and then click **Next>**.

The **Name** field must be completed; the **Company Name** field is optional.

8. Read the license agreement, click **I accept the Agreement**, and then click **Next>**.

If you do not accept the agreement, you cannot access Windows 98. After you accept the license agreement, the **Product Key** window appears.

9. Find the Product Key on the Certificate of Authenticity on the front cover of the *Getting Started/Microsoft Windows 98* document, enter the Product Key in the fields provided, and then click **Next>**.

10. When the **Start Wizard** window appears, click **Finish**.

The **Windows Setup** window appears that tracks the progress of the Windows 98 setup.

The **Date/Time Properties** window appears.

11. Click the **Time Zone** tab. Then select your time zone from the pull-down menu, and click **Apply**.
12. Click the **Date & Time** tab. Make the appropriate changes, click **Apply**, and then click **OK** to continue with the setup.



CAUTION: To prevent possible conflicts with Windows 98, you must not begin printer setup until the Windows 98 setup is completed.

13. Because you don't have a printer connected, the **Add Printer Wizard** window appears. Click **Cancel**.

Windows continues updating your system settings.

The **Welcome to Windows 98** screen appears.

14. If you are in the U.S. and ordered a Dell-installed modem with your computer, a screen appears that prompts you to set up your Internet access.



*NOTE: If you use a PC Card modem, you will be asked to add hardware to your computer. Insert the PC Card modem, and connect the telephone line to the PC Card. If a modem is integrated into your computer, connect the telephone line to the computer. Then follow the instructions on your display. The computer will automatically dial the proper telephone number to register your account. If you have problems connecting, click **RETRY** because the telephone line may be busy.*

If you have a network connection or if you are located outside of the U.S., proceed to the next step.

15. When the **Welcome to Windows 98** screen appears, click the **X** in the upper-right corner of the screen.

Adding a Printer

For instructions on connecting a printer and configuring it for Windows 98, see the printer manufacturer's documentation or the *Getting Started/Microsoft Windows 98* documentation.

Using the Welcome to Windows 98 Screen

The **Welcome to Windows 98** screen enables you to learn about and configure some features of your operating system. It contains the following options:



- **Register Now** — Registers your copy of Windows 98 with Microsoft.

NOTE: To register your copy of Windows 98, you need to be connected to the Internet. For information on connecting to the Internet, see the previous section, "Setting Up Windows 98."

- **Connect to the Internet** — Configures your system for Internet use.
- **Discover Windows 98** — Provides information about basic computer essentials, upgrading from the Windows 3.x and Windows 95 operating systems, features of Windows 98, and Windows 98 resources. For a tutorial of Windows 98, select the **Windows 98 Overview** option.
- **Maintain Your Computer** — Configures your computer for regular automated system maintenance.



NOTE: To ensure optimal performance with your Dell system, do not change the defaults for this option.

When you place the cursor over an option, the screen text to the right of **Contents** automatically updates to display information about that option. Click an option or click **Begin** to access the **Register Now** window. If you access an option from the **Welcome to Windows 98** screen and then exit from it, Windows 98 returns to the **Welcome to Windows 98** screen. To bypass the **Welcome to Windows 98** screen, click the **X** in the upper-right corner of the screen.

By default, the **Welcome** screen appears each time you start Windows 98, unless you specify otherwise by unchecking the **Show this window each time Windows 98 starts** option. If you uncheck this option and want to access the **Welcome to Windows 98** screen, click the **Start** button, point to **Programs—> Accessories—> System Tools**, and click **Welcome to Windows**.

Congratulations!

Your system is set up and ready to use.

What's Next?



Chapter 2 orients you to the Windows desktop. It also tells you how to change your wallpaper and screen saver, create shortcuts, and position icons.



Chapter 3 describes how to access, install, and remove software. It also covers basic file management, such as finding, copying, deleting, and renaming files.



Chapter 4 provides basic information and tips on using your computer hardware. Also included are general instructions for adding a printer.



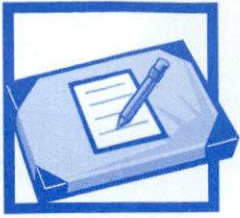
Chapter 5 offers answers to commonly asked questions about your computer system.

System User's Guide



The *System User's Guide* is a handy reference tool as you work on your desktop. It allows you to search for information in multiple ways and to quickly link to related topics.

To open the guide, click the **System User's Guide** icon on your desktop.



CHAPTER 2

Customizing the Windows Desktop

This chapter describes the main features of the Windows desktop and explains how to customize the operating system for your use. It also tells you how to get help while using Windows.

If you are a new Windows user, the Windows tutorial can help orient you to Windows operations. To access the tutorial, click the **Start** button and then click **Help**. On the **Contents** tab, double-click **Tour: Ten minutes to using Windows**.

If you've used previous versions of Windows and want to find out what has changed, click the **Start** button and then click **Help**. On the **Contents** tab, double-click **If you've used Windows before**.

Major Features of the Windows Desktop

Although your system may vary slightly depending on its hardware and software configuration, the Windows desktop has many standard features (see Figure 2-1). Table 2-1 describes these features.

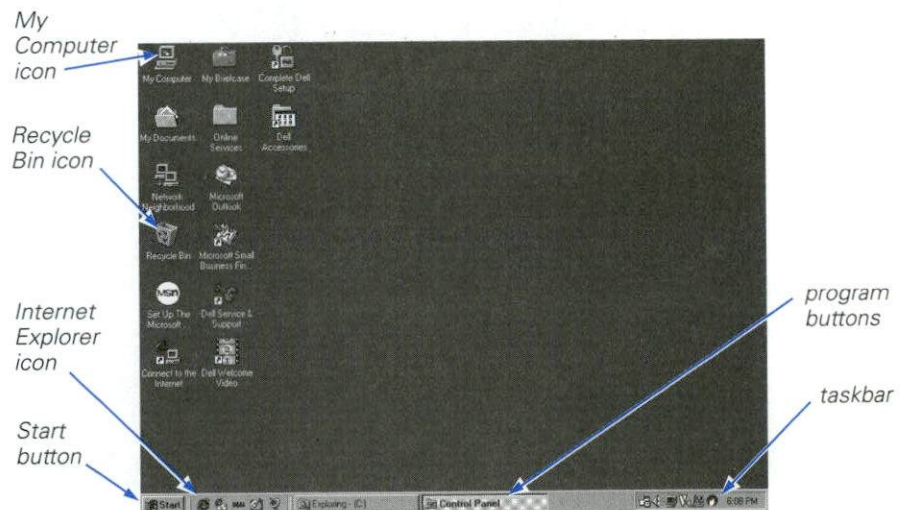


Figure 2-1. Windows Desktop

Table 2-1. Major Features of the Windows Desktop

Feature	Function
Taskbar	The area at the bottom of the screen is called the <i>taskbar</i> . When you open a program, a button appears on the taskbar. The taskbar contains the Start button on the left and a clock on the right. You may also see other icons on the taskbar, depending on your system's software and hardware features.
Start button	The Start button provides access to the contents of your computer. Click the Start button to display a menu containing the system's main program and program group icons (see Figure 2-2). Refer to Table 2-2 for descriptions of the Start menu options.
My Computer	Double-click this icon to display the contents of your computer. Icons appear for any installed drives, as well as the Control Panel , printers, and so on. Refer to "My Computer" in Chapter 3 for more information.
Recycle Bin	When you delete a file from your system, it moves to the Recycle Bin , where it can later be retrieved. To permanently remove files, empty the Recycle Bin as explained in "Deleting Files" in Chapter 3.
Internet Explorer	Double-click this icon to launch the Internet Connection Wizard and prepare to access the Internet.

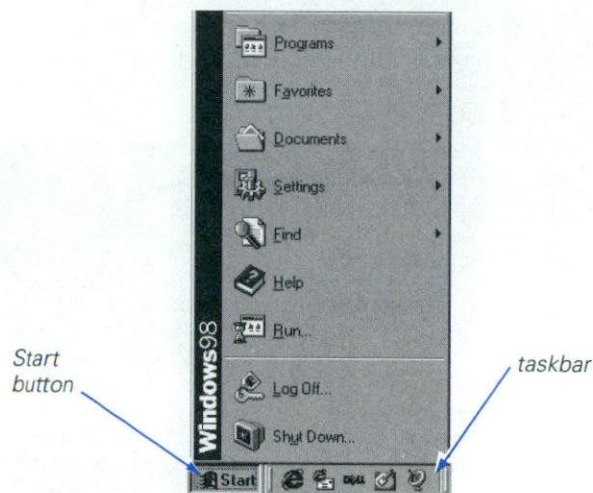


Figure 2-2. Start Button Menu

Table 2-2. Start Menu Options

Start Menu Option	Function
Programs	Displays a list of installed programs you can start.
Favorites	Displays a list of favorite Web content and sites, including the Dell Channel.
Documents	Displays a list of most-recently opened documents.
Settings	Displays a list of user-configurable system components.
Find	Displays a menu to help you find files, folders, or computers to which you are connected.
Help	Opens the help system that provides instructions for using Windows. Refer to "Using Windows Help" found later in this chapter for more information.
Run...	Displays a window for starting a program or file with an MS-DOS [®] command.
Log Off...	Logs off current user so that a new user can log on.
Shut Down...	Displays a window with options for shutting down, restarting, or logging off of your computer system.

For more information on the Windows desktop, refer to the Microsoft documentation that accompanied your system.

Working Within Program Windows

Each program and document has a *title bar* at the top of the window that displays the title of the window. The title bar includes three small icons on the right side (see Figure 2-3).

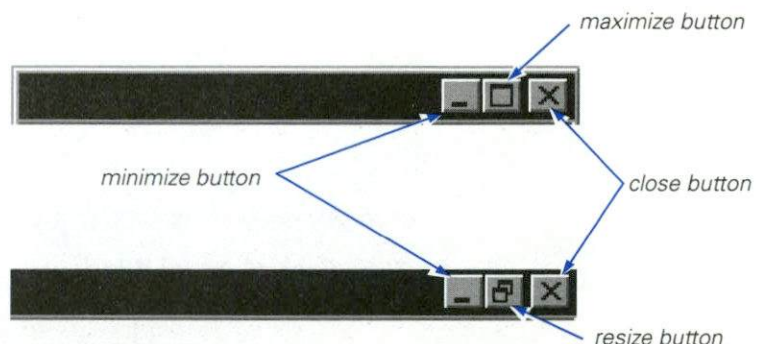


Figure 2-3. Windows Title Bar

Click the minimize button to close the window but leave the program running (click the program's button on the taskbar to restore the window). Click the maximize button to size the window to the screen, and click the resize button to return the window to its original size. Click the close button to close the document or program.

Each time you open a program, a button for that program appears on the taskbar (see Figure 2-4). You can click the buttons to toggle between open programs.



Figure 2-4. Taskbar and Program Buttons

Control Panel

The **Control Panel** contains many of the tools used to change how Windows looks and works. To access the **Control Panel**, follow these steps:

1. Click the **Start** button, point to **Settings**, and then click **Control Panel** (see Figure 2-5).

A window containing system setup icons appears.

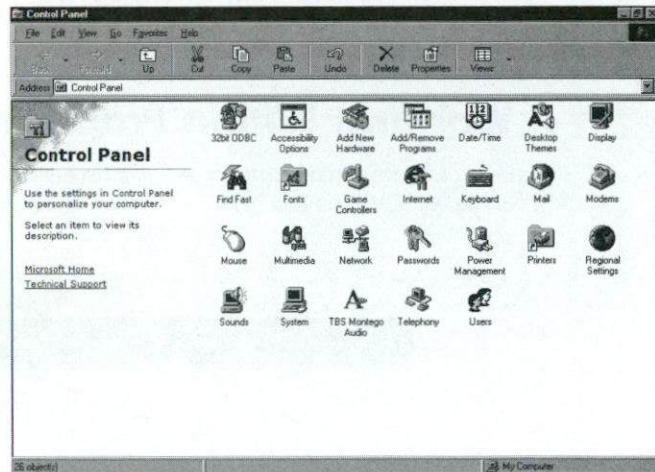


Figure 2-5. Control Panel Window

Typical icons include **Display**, **Keyboard**, **Mouse**, and **Printers**.



NOTE: The icons in the **Control Panel** vary depending on the hardware and software configuration of your computer system. Point your mouse cursor at an icon to pop up a short description of its settings.

2. Double-click an icon to see the settings that you can change for that item.

Setting Up Display Properties

The **Display Properties** window contains controls for customizing the way Windows looks on your system. For example, you can change your desktop's *wallpaper* (background) and screen saver. To access display settings, follow these steps:

1. Click the **Start** button, point to **Settings**, and then click **Control Panel**.
2. Double-click the **Display** icon.

The **Display Properties** window opens with the **Background** tab selected by default (see Figure 2-6).

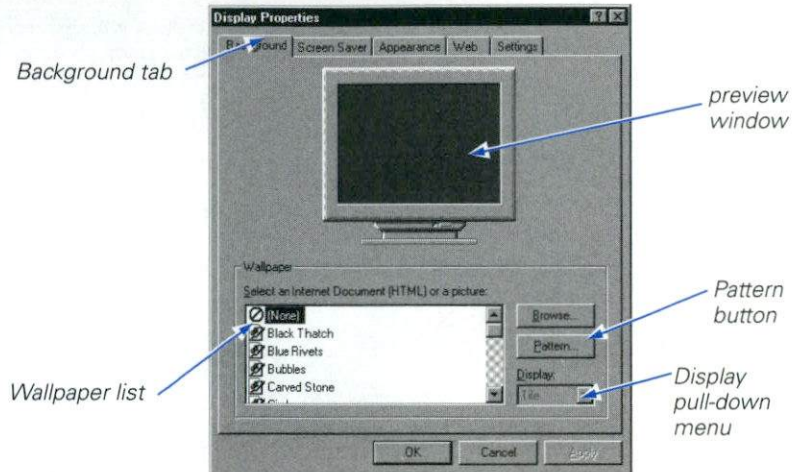


Figure 2-6. Background Tab of the Display Properties Window

Changing the Wallpaper

The *wallpaper* (background appearance of the Windows desktop) is changed on the **Background** tab of the **Display Properties** window. Table 2-3 describes the various parts of this tab. After you make any changes, click **OK** to apply (activate) them.

Table 2-3. Background Tab Features

Feature	Function
Preview window	Displays the current wallpaper or pattern.
Wallpaper list	Click the name of the wallpaper you want to display, or click (None) if you prefer not to use a wallpaper image. Click the Browse button to use images in a directory you specify.
Pattern button	Click the Pattern button to display a list of patterns for your desktop, or click (None) if you prefer not to use a pattern. This option is not available if the Tile option has been applied to a wallpaper selection.
Display pull-down menu	Click Tile to tile a wallpaper image across the entire screen, or click Center to place a single copy of the image in the center of the screen.

Changing the Screen Saver

Screen savers are programs that prevent a static image from damaging the monitor. They start automatically after a user-defined period of inactivity. To change your system's screen saver, click the **Screen Saver** tab in the **Display Properties** window (see Figure 2-7).

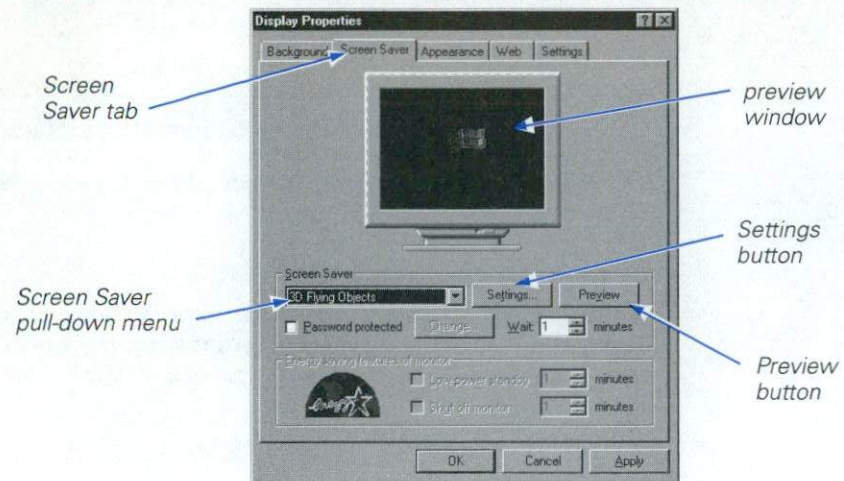


Figure 2-7. Screen Saver Tab of the Display Properties Window

Table 2-4 describes the various parts of the **Screen Saver** tab. After you make any changes, click **OK** to apply them.

Table 2-4. Screen Saver Tab Features

Feature	Function
Preview window	Displays the current screen saver.
Screen Saver pull-down menu	Choose a screen saver from the pull-down menu, or click (None) if you prefer not to activate a screen saver.
Settings button	Click this button to change various features of the screen saver.
Preview button	Click this button to run the currently selected screen saver.



NOTE: Depending on your monitor, you may also have fields for other display controls, such as energy-saving features. For more information, refer to the documentation that came with your monitor.

Shortcuts

Shortcuts are icons that provide quick access to frequently used programs, files, folders, and drives. By double-clicking a shortcut, you can open its corresponding folder or file without having to find it first. Shortcuts do not change the location of files; if you delete a shortcut, the original file is not affected.

Creating a Shortcut on the Desktop

To create a shortcut, follow these steps:

1. Open the **My Computer** window or **Windows Explorer**.

To open the **My Computer** window, double-click the **My Computer** icon on the desktop.

To open **Windows Explorer**, right-click the **Start** button and then click **Explore**.

2. Find the item for which you want a shortcut.
3. Using your right mouse button, click the object and drag it to the desktop.
4. Release the right mouse button.

A menu appears next to your cursor.

5. Click **Create Shortcut(s) Here**.

An icon appears on your desktop that you can double-click at any time to activate the shortcut.

Arranging and Positioning Shortcuts

The shortcuts you create on your desktop can be easily moved and arranged. To individually move shortcuts, point your mouse cursor at the icon, click it, and drag it to the desired location.

To arrange all of your shortcut icons at once, follow these steps:

1. Move your mouse cursor to an empty spot on the desktop, and click the right mouse button.
2. From the pop-up menu, point to **Arrange Icons**.
3. Click the option for the icon arrangement you prefer.

The icons are automatically arranged.

Using Windows Help

An extensive help system is built into your Microsoft operating system. To access Help, click the **Start** button and then click **Help**.

The **Windows Help** window appears (see Figure 2-8).

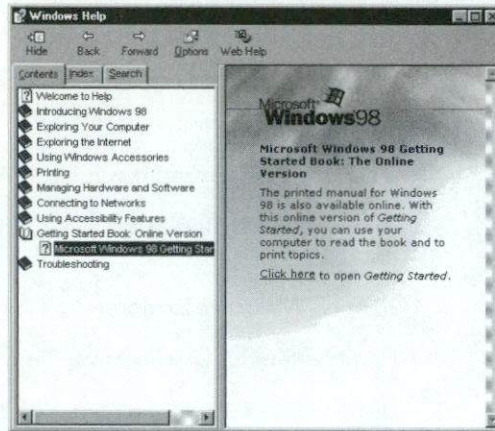


Figure 2-8. Contents Tab of Windows Help

The **Contents** tab lists help topics by subject, the **Index** tab lists topics alphabetically, and the **Search** tab lets you search for topics based on words you provide.

For more information on using Windows Help, refer to Microsoft Windows documentation that came with your system.



CHAPTER 3

Using and Installing Software

This chapter provides information about using Windows 98 to perform basic tasks, such as starting programs, managing files, and properly shutting down your computer system. It also discusses adding and removing software packages and loading device drivers.

Accessing Programs

To access your programs, follow these steps:

1. Click the **Start** button, and then point to **Programs**.

In the **Programs** menu, a folder icon appears next to program groups with multiple programs.

2. Click the program you want to start.

Basic File Management

Windows 98 provides file management and browsing capabilities with **Windows Explorer** and **My Computer**.

My Computer

My Computer contains various icons that represent the contents of your computer. Icons appear for any installed drives, as well as the **Control Panel** and printers. To open the **My Computer** window (see Figure 3-1), double-click the **My Computer** icon on the desktop.

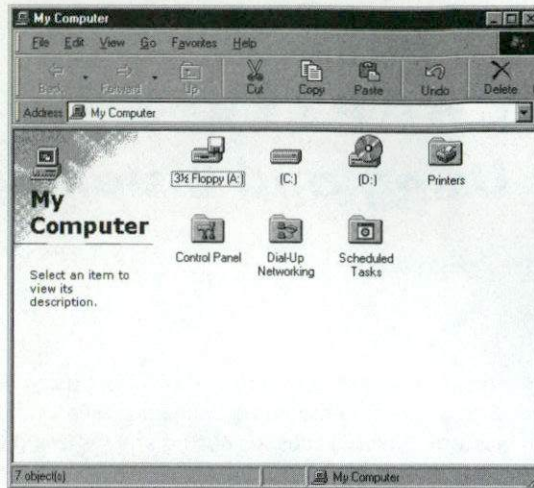


Figure 3-1. My Computer Window

To view the contents of any drive or folder, double-click its icon. As shown in Figure 3-1, your hard-disk drive may be partitioned into multiple logical drives. Each logical drive appears as a separate drive letter (C:, D:, E:, and so on).

For more information on **My Computer**, refer to the Microsoft documentation that came with your system.

Windows Explorer

Windows Explorer displays the contents of your computer as a hierarchical list, or *tree* (see Figure 3-2). You can use this program to locate files on any drive or folder in your computer.

To open **Windows Explorer**, click the **Start** button, point to **Programs**, and then click **Windows Explorer**. Alternatively, you can right-click the **Start** button and then click **Explore**.

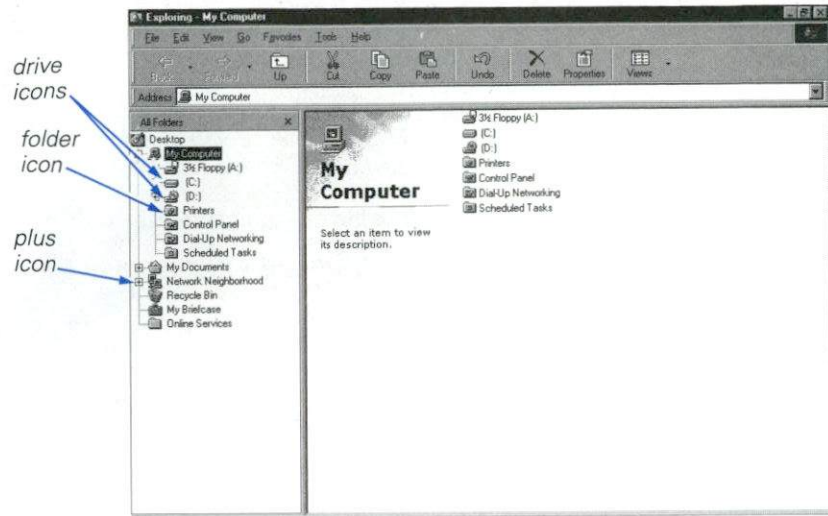


Figure 3-2. Windows Explorer

The left side of the window shows drives and folders, and the right side lists the files in the drive or folder selected. A plus (+) icon to the left of a drive or folder indicates the presence of additional folders. Click the plus icon to expand the view one level. To collapse the view, click the minus (–) icon to the left of a drive or folder.

Finding Files

To locate a particular file or folder, follow these steps:

1. Click the **Start** button, point to **Find**, and then click **Files or Folders**.

The **Find: All Files** window opens with the **Name & Location** tab selected and the cursor in the **Named:** field (see Figure 3-3).

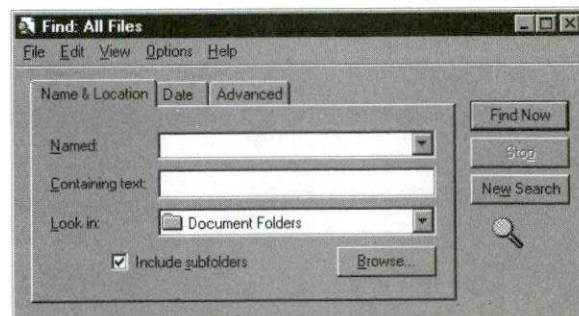


Figure 3-3. Find: All Files Window

2. Type the name of the file or folder you want to find.
3. Specify where you want Windows to search by clicking the arrow next to the **Look in:** field.



NOTE: If you leave the default setting (C:), Windows searches the entire hard-disk drive (or drive C partition).

4. Click the **Find Now** button to begin the search.

Windows lists any files meeting your search criteria below the **Find: All Files** window.

Copying Files

To place a copy of a file in a new location, follow these steps:

1. Use **Windows Explorer** or **My Computer** to locate the file you want to copy.
2. Click the file to select it.
3. Click the **Edit** menu, and then click **Copy**.
4. Open the folder where you want to copy the file.
5. Click the **Edit** menu, and then click **Paste**.

Moving Files



CAUTION: Do not move files that are part of an installed program. Doing so may render the program unusable.

To move a file to a new location, follow these steps:

1. Use **Windows Explorer** or **My Computer** to locate the file you want to move.
2. Click the file to select it.
3. Click the **Edit** menu, and then click **Cut**.
4. Open the folder where you want to move the file.
5. Click the **Edit** menu, and then click **Paste**.

Renaming Files

To change the name of a file, follow these steps:

1. Use **Windows Explorer** or **My Computer** to locate the file you want to rename.
2. Click the file to select it.

3. Click the **File** menu, and then click **Rename**.
4. Type the new filename and press <Enter>.



CAUTION: Do not change the filename extension (last three characters after the period). Doing so may render the file unusable.

Deleting Files



CAUTION: Do not delete files that are part of an installed program. Doing so may render the program unusable.

To delete a file, follow these steps:

1. Use **Windows Explorer** or **My Computer** to locate the file you want to delete.
2. Click the file to select it.
3. Click the **File** menu, and then click **Delete**.

Retrieving a Deleted File From the Recycle Bin

When you delete a file, it moves to the **Recycle Bin**. It is not removed from the system until you empty the **Recycle Bin**.



CAUTION: Files deleted from a diskette or from a network drive are erased permanently. They are not sent to the Recycle Bin.

If you delete a file in error and need to retrieve it from the **Recycle Bin**, follow these steps:

1. Double-click the **Recycle Bin** icon located on the desktop.
The **Recycle Bin** window opens and lists all deleted files, their previous locations, and the date you deleted them.
2. Click the file you want to restore.
3. Click the **File** menu, and then click **Restore**.

The file disappears from the **Recycle Bin** and is restored to its original location.

Emptying the Recycle Bin

Deleted files sent to the **Recycle Bin** still use space on the computer's hard-disk drive. To free up disk space, periodically empty the **Recycle Bin** by following these steps:

1. Double-click the **Recycle Bin** icon located on the desktop.

The **Recycle Bin** window opens and lists all deleted files, their previous locations, and the date you deleted them.

2. Click the **File** menu, and then click **Empty Recycle Bin**.
3. When a confirmation dialog box appears, click **Yes** to delete the file(s).

All files disappear from the **Recycle Bin** and are removed from the system.

Shutting Down Your Computer



CAUTION: To prevent data loss, it is important that you perform the following shutdown procedure before you turn off your computer.

To shut down your computer, follow these steps:

1. Exit any application programs in which you are working.
2. Click the **Start** button, and then click **Shut Down**.

The **Shut Down Windows** dialog box appears with the **Shut down** radio button selected (see Figure 3-4).

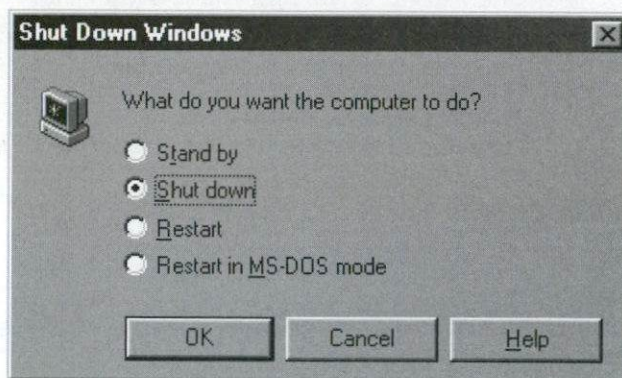


Figure 3-4. Shut Down Window

3. Click **OK** to shut down your computer.

A message states that your system is shutting down. The computer automatically turns off after the shutdown process finishes.

4. Turn off your monitor and any other devices connected to power.

Windows 98 Update Wizard

To ensure optimal performance with Windows 98, your system has been configured and tested by Dell. Should you want to update your system, Dell recommends that you download updates from Dell's World Wide Web site at <http://www.dell.com>.



CAUTION: Dell recommends that you do not use the Windows 98 Update Wizard to update your system because drivers, updates, and system tools available from the Update Wizard may not be tested by Dell or be compatible with your system. Your system may become unusable if you update it using the Update Wizard.



NOTE: Dell provides support for your computer as it was configured by Dell. Dell does not provide support for systems that are updated using the Windows 98 **Update Wizard**.

Installing and Configuring Additional Software

If you are unsure whether Dell installed a particular software package you ordered, you can quickly check by clicking the **Start** button, pointing to **Programs**, and scanning the programs listed in the **Programs** menu. If the program is listed, it has already been installed and you do not need to reinstall it from the diskettes or CDs you received with your system. Store the diskettes and CDs in a safe place.

Before installing any new software, check the program's specifications to ensure that it was designed to run on your computer's installed hardware and software. For example, many software packages list the microprocessor, minimum memory configuration, and hard-disk drive space required for proper operation. They also list the operating system versions that are compatible with the software.

To install or configure new software on your computer, follow the manufacturer's instructions. If it fails to install or run properly, contact the software manufacturer for technical support.



NOTE: DellWareSM products are supported by the item's manufacturer. To receive product support information, call 1-800-753-7201.

Removing Software

To remove a program from your computer, follow these steps.



CAUTION: Do not interrupt or stop this process once begun; otherwise, data loss and corruption of your operating system could result.

1. Click the **Start** button, point to **Settings**, and then click **Control Panel**.
2. In the **Control Panel**, double-click **Add/Remove Programs**.
3. Select the program you want to delete from the programs listed, and click the **Add/Remove...** button.
4. Follow the instructions and prompts to delete all installed components.
5. When finished, click **OK**.

Device Drivers

Drivers are software files that enable your computer to communicate with installed and connected devices.

All of the devices installed by Dell already have drivers installed. If you add devices, such as a printer, they may require additional drivers to work properly. Contact the device manufacturer if the necessary drivers are not provided on a diskette or CD.

When using Windows 98, new hardware may be detected automatically during the system restart. If Windows 98 detects new hardware, a **New Hardware Found** window appears, and you are prompted for information about the device so that Windows 98 can identify and load the appropriate drivers. You must then restart the system for the configuration information to take effect.

Backing Up Files

It is important to make backups (copies) of all your data files. Data files are the files (documents, graphics, records, and so on) you create with your programs.



NOTE: No backups need be made for software packages or for your operating system. The Microsoft Windows 98 CD has a copy of the operating system, and the Dell Inspiron 7000 Software CD has copies of the system device drivers. Additionally, any software you purchase comes with diskettes or CDs.

For more information on backing up files, refer to the "Maintaining Your Computer" section of the *System User's Guide*.

Creating a Windows 98 Start-Up Diskette

It is essential that you create a Windows 98 start-up diskette. You will need this diskette if you ever have to reinstall Windows 98. Once you have created the diskette, store it in a safe place.

Follow these steps to make the Windows 98 start-up diskette:

1. Label a blank diskette *Windows 98 Start-up Diskette*.
2. Click the **Start** button, point to **Settings**, and click **Control Panel**.
3. Double-click the **Add/Remove Programs** icon.
4. Click the **Startup Disk** tab and then click **Create Disk**.
5. Insert the blank diskette into the diskette drive and click **OK**.
6. When prompted, remove the diskette from the diskette drive.

Using Windows 98 Power Management Features

When you run Windows 98, the power management features of your Dell portable computer can be set through the **Power Management Properties** window. If you press <F2>, any power management feature set through the Setup program will be disabled when Windows 98 is run.

To access the **Power Management Properties** window and set the power management features through Windows 98, perform the following steps:

1. Click the **Start** button, point to **Settings**, and click **Control Panel**.
2. Double-click the **Power Management** icon.
3. Set the power management features.

The **Power Management Properties** window contains the following tabs:

- **Power Schemes** — Allows you to select the power scheme (**Always On**, **Home/Office Desktop**, and **Portable/Laptop**) and power mode setting for your computer.
- **Alarms** — Allows you to set the **Low battery** and **Critical battery** alarm to alert you that the system battery has gone below a certain percentage. When you received your Dell portable computer, the **Low battery** and **Critical battery** alarms check boxes were unchecked. Dell recommends that these options remain unchecked.
- **Power Meter** — Allows you to view the percentage of battery life remaining when your system is operating on battery power. If your system is operating on AC power, a message is displayed.
- **Advanced** — Allows you to display the **Power Meter** on the Windows 98 taskbar and to display a password prompt when the computer resumes from standby mode.

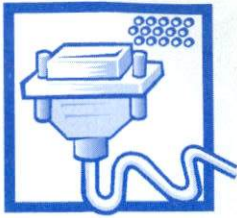
Obtaining Technical Assistance

Dell has established a dedicated toll-free telephone number to assist Inspiron 7000 computer customers in the U.S. and Canada.

Dell's technical support staff can answer your questions about features and operation of the Inspiron 7000 computer. They can also guide you through the setup process and help you to resolve any problems you may experience with your portable computer. This help is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

To contact technical support, call 1-888-694-1410. Before you call, locate your Express Service Code on the bottom of your computer.

For information about obtaining technical assistance outside the U.S. and Canada, see the topic titled "Contacting Dell" in your *System User's Guide*.



CHAPTER 4

Using Computer Hardware

This chapter provides information and tips on using your computer *hardware* (physical parts of a computer system). It also includes general instructions for using a port replicator.

Many of the computer devices you might want to use or connect come with their own instructions and/or software. You should follow the device manufacturer's instructions when connecting and using these devices.



WARNING: For your personal safety and protection of your system, always turn off your computer system and disconnect it from AC power before attaching any devices.

Video Display

The video display system consists of the video card installed in the computer and the display connected to it. They work together to produce the picture you see on your screen. To display a program at a specific *resolution* (maximum number of pixels that can be displayed), both the video card and display must support it and the necessary video drivers must be installed.

Changing the Display Resolution

To adjust the video resolution and the number of colors on your display, follow these steps:

1. Click the **Start** button, point to **Settings**, and then click **Control Panel**.
2. Double-click the **Display** icon.
The **Display Properties** window appears.
3. Click the **Settings** tab (see Figure 4-1).

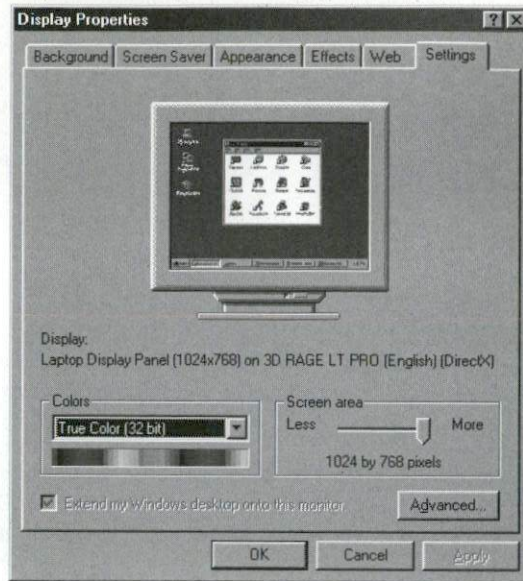


Figure 4-1. Display Properties Window

4. Point the cursor at the slider in the **Screen area**. Then click and hold down the left button.
5. Move the slider to the left to decrease the resolution or to the right to increase the resolution.



NOTE: As the resolution increases, icons and text appear smaller on the screen.

6. Click **Apply**.

A dialog box informs you that the process may take 15 seconds and that the screen may flicker while the resolution is changed.

7. Click **OK** and then **Yes** to accept the new setting.
8. In the **Colors** box, choose the number of colors from the menu provided.

If you need further information on using the **Display Properties** window, see your Microsoft Windows 98 operating system documentation.



NOTES: Your computer's active-matrix extended graphics array (XGA) display supports a video resolution of 1024 x 768 pixels and 64,000 colors.

The video drivers Dell installed for you are designed to offer the best performance on the computer. It is recommended that you use only these drivers with your factory-installed operating system.

If you select a resolution higher than that supported by the built-in display, panning allows you to view the image in sections on the display. A high-resolution mode can also be used on an external multifrequency monitor connected to the computer. If you are not sure which resolutions your monitor can display, check the documentation that came with the monitor.

Adjusting Brightness

To accommodate local lighting conditions or video output from the software you are using, you can use key combinations to adjust the brightness of your display:

- Press <Fn><down-arrow> to decrease brightness
- Press <Fn><up-arrow> to increase brightness



NOTE: When running the computer on battery power, set the computer's brightness control to the lowest setting that affords comfortable viewing. You can conserve up to 5 percent of battery power by using the minimum brightness setting.

External Monitor

Your Dell Inspiron computer has a monitor connector for attaching an external monitor. To connect and use an external monitor, follow these steps.

Connecting an External Monitor

1. Turn off the external monitor and your computer.
2. Set the monitor on a monitor stand, desk top, or other level surface near the computer.



CAUTION: Do not place the monitor directly on top of your portable computer, even if it is closed. Doing so can crack the computer case, the display, or both.

3. Plug the monitor cable connector into the matching monitor connector at the back of the computer. If the cable is not permanently attached to the monitor, connect it to the monitor also (see Figure 4-2).

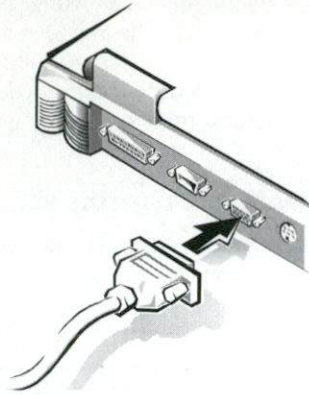


Figure 4-2. Connecting an External Monitor

4. Tighten all the screws on the monitor cable connector(s) to eliminate radio frequency interference (RFI).
5. Connect your external monitor to a grounded electrical outlet. Plug the three-prong connector on one end of the monitor's power cable into a grounded power strip or some other grounded power source. If the cable is not permanently attached to the monitor, connect it to the monitor also.

Using an External Monitor

The video image can be displayed on an external monitor, on the computer's display, or on both simultaneously. To toggle between the three display modes, press <Fn><F8>.

If the external monitor is turned off when you boot the computer, and if the **Video Display Device** option is set to **CRT Mode** in the **Main menu** of the Setup program, the computer sends the video image to the external monitor. In this case, you do not see an image on either the computer's display or on the external monitor. To resolve this situation, turn on the external monitor or press <Fn><F8> to switch the video image to the computer's display.

Whether you are using an appropriately equipped multifrequency monitor only or are using an external monitor and the built-in display simultaneously, you can display up to 64,000 colors at a noninterlaced resolution of 1024 x 768 pixels.



NOTE: When the external monitor and built-in display are used simultaneously, the refresh rate is always 60 hertz (Hz).

Changing the Refresh Rate on External Monitors

The *refresh rate* is the rate at which the display redraws the video image on the screen. The higher the refresh rate, the less video flicker can be seen by the human eye. If the video image on an external monitor appears to flicker (typically at a refresh rate of 60 Hz), select a higher supported refresh rate by following these steps:

1. Click the **Start** button, point to **Settings**, and then click **Control Panel**.

The **Control Panel** window appears.

2. Double-click the **Display** icon and then click the **Settings** tab.

The **Display Properties** window appears.

3. Click the **Advanced** button.

The **3D RAGE LT PRO** window appears.

4. Click the **Adapter** tab.

5. Locate the **Refresh rate** section and click the pull-down menu (see Figure 4-3).

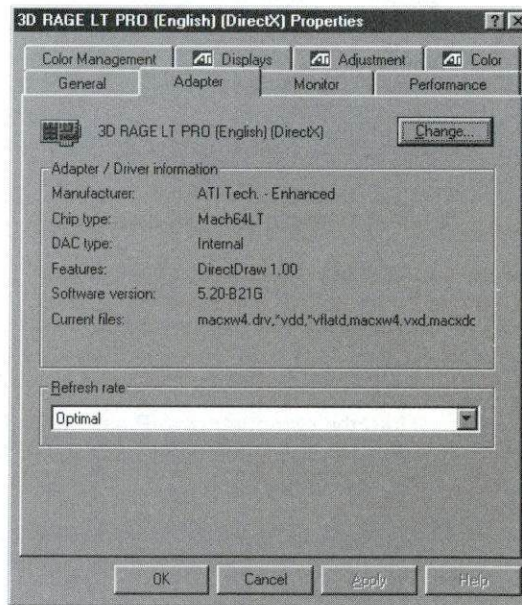


Figure 4-3. Changing the Refresh Rate

6. Select a refresh rate, and click **Apply**, then click **OK** and then **Yes** to accept the new setting.

Batteries

The computer uses lithium ion batteries for power when it is not connected to an AC power source. The main battery comes standard with the computer (see Figure 4-4).

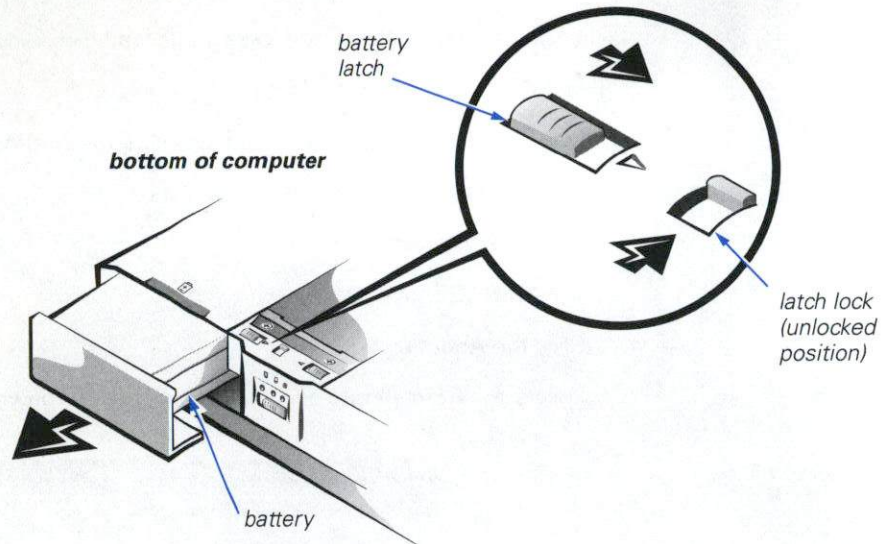


Figure 4-4. Installing a Battery

To install the battery, follow these steps:

1. Save any files that you have open.
2. Shut down the computer, and close the display.
3. Remove the main battery.

Turn the computer over. Press the battery latch lock toward the back of the computer and slide the battery latch away from the battery. Then slide the battery out of the compartment.

4. With the battery latch lock unlocked, slide the new battery into the battery compartment until the battery clicks into place. Move the latch lock to the locked position.
5. Start the computer.

See the *System User's Guide* for more information on using the battery.

Keyboard

You can connect an external keyboard or keypad with a standard connector to the PS/2 connector on the computer by using an adapter available from Dell (see Figure 4-5).

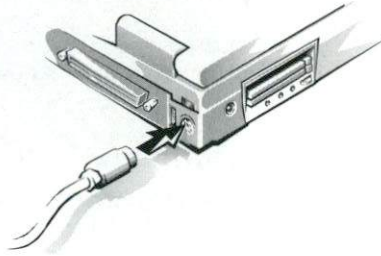


Figure 4-5. Attaching an External Keyboard/Keypad

Turn off the computer before connecting or disconnecting a keyboard.



NOTE: You can use the built-in keyboard when an external keyboard is attached to the computer.

Embedded Numeric Keypad

As you work, you may want to use the embedded numeric keypad to enter numbers in spreadsheet or financial programs (see Figure 4-6).



Figure 4-6. Embedded Numeric Keypad



NOTE: Key combinations can be used when the keypad is off or on.

The embedded numeric keypad shares some of the keys on your computer's keyboard. The keypad numbers and symbols are marked on the right of the keypad keys.

To activate the embedded numeric keypad, follow these steps:

1. Press <Num Lock>.

The Pad Lock LED illuminates.

2. Press and hold <Fn> to toggle between the letter and number keys.

To deactivate the keypad, press <Num Lock> again. The Pad Lock LED is no longer illuminated.



NOTE: The embedded numeric keypad is automatically disabled if an external keyboard or keypad is connected to the computer.

To adjust keyboard operation, such as the character repeat rate, double-click the **Keyboard** icon in the **Control Panel** (refer to "Control Panel" in Chapter 2).

Key Combinations

Table 4-1 lists various key combinations that you can use to complete certain functions. For more information on key combinations, refer to the *System User's Guide*

Table 4-1. Key Combinations and Functions

Key Combination	Function
Windows Logo Key Combinations	
<Logo key><m>	Minimizes all open windows
<Logo key><Shift><m>	Maximizes all windows
<Logo key><e>	Opens Windows Explorer
<Logo key><r>	Opens the Run dialog box
<Logo key><f>	Opens the Find Files dialog box
<Logo key><Ctrl><f>	Opens the Find Computer dialog box (if you are connected to a network)
<Logo key><Pause>	Opens the System Properties dialog box
Display Key Combinations	
<Fn><F8>	Toggles the video image to the next display in the following sequence: • Built-in display • External monitor • Both displays simultaneously
<Fn><down-arrow>	Incrementally decreases brightness
<Fn><up-arrow>	Incrementally increases brightness

Table 4-1. Key Combinations and Functions (continued)

Key Combination	Function
Power Conservation Key Combinations	
<Fn><Esc>	Activates standby mode
<Fn><a> (or <Fn><q> on a French keyboard)	Activates save-to-disk suspend mode
Speaker Key Combinations	
<Fn><Page Up>	Increases the volume of the built-in speakers and the external speakers, if attached
<Fn><Page Down>	Decreases the volume of the built-in speakers and the external speakers, if attached
<Fn><End>	Enables and disables the built-in speakers and the external speakers, if attached
	<i>NOTE: You can also disable the built-in speakers with the volume control dial. If no sound comes from the speakers, press <Fn><End> and check the volume control dial.</i>
System Functions Key Combinations	
<Ctrl><Alt><Delete>	Restarts (reboots) the computer
<Num Lock>	Enables and disables the embedded numeric keypad

Touch Pad

The PS/2-compatible touch pad (see Figure 4-7) detects the position of your finger over a touch-sensitive area and provides the computer full mouse functionality. The touch pad's two buttons correspond to the left and right buttons on a standard mouse.

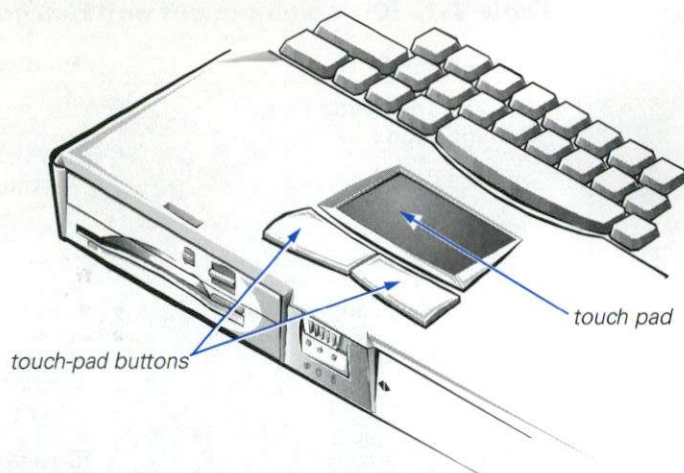


Figure 4-7. Touch Pad and Buttons

To move the cursor, lightly slide your finger over the smooth sensor area. To select an object, gently tap once on the surface of the touch pad. To select and move (or drag) an object, position the cursor on the object and tap down-up-down on the touch pad. On the second down motion, leave your finger on the touch pad and move the selected object by sliding your finger across the surface. To double-click an object, position the cursor on the object and then tap twice.

To customize touch pad and cursor features, follow these steps:

1. Click the **Start** button, point to **Settings**, and then click **Control Panel**.
The **Control Panel** window appears.
2. Double-click the **Mouse** icon.
3. Select the **Touch Pad** tab.
4. Make your desired selections. Click the **Help** button if you need more information.
5. To incorporate your changes, click **Apply**.



NOTE: Keep your fingers away from the touch pad while the computer is booting or loading the operating system. If you touch the touch pad at either time, the cursor will not move until you remove your finger from the touch pad surface.

Mouse

You may attach a PS/2-compatible mouse to the PS/2 connector on the computer or a Universal Serial Bus (USB)-compatible mouse to the USB connector.



NOTE: Before connecting or disconnecting a PS/2 mouse, turn off your computer. If you attach a USB mouse to the computer, you do not need to reboot in order to use the mouse.

The touch pad device drivers that Dell installed on your hard-disk drive work with a PS/2 mouse, serial mouse, or USB mouse from Dell. If you did not receive your mouse from Dell, you must install device drivers separately to use the mouse. This software is usually included with mouse installation kits.

To adjust mouse operation, such as the pointer speed and right/left-handed button configuration, double-click the **Mouse** icon in the **Control Panel** (refer to “Control Panel” in Chapter 2). For more information, refer to the documentation that came with your mouse.

Options Bay

The standard configuration of your portable computer includes a combination module with a CD-ROM drive and diskette drive installed in the options bay. You can also use a DVD-ROM drive or a secondary battery in the options bay. To remove and install any of the three devices, follow these steps:

1. Save any open files and turn off the computer.
2. Close the display and turn the computer over.
3. Push the latch lock toward the back of the system (see Figure 4-8).

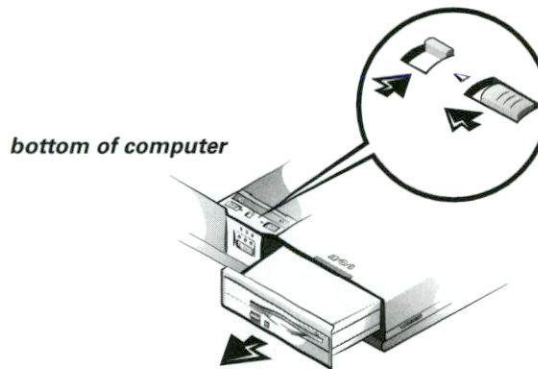


Figure 4-8. Using the Options Bay

4. Slide the latch release away from the options bay. Keep holding the latch release with one hand while pulling the device out of the options bay with the other.
5. After installing a device in the options bay, push the latch lock back to the locked position.
6. Restart the computer.



NOTE: Before you remove a module from the options bay, turn off the computer. After you install a module in the options bay, reboot the computer so that the operating system recognizes the module.

Connecting a Television

Your Dell Inspiron portable computer has an S-video TV-out connector for connecting a television to the computer. To connect a television, follow these steps:

1. If the television has an S-video cable, plug the cable directly into the system at the S-video TV-out connector.

If the television has a composite cable, connect the composite TV-out adapter cable that came with your system to the S-video TV-out connector on the system (see Figure 4-9), and connect the other end of the adapter cable to the television's composite cable.

2. Save and exit any application programs and files you have open.
3. Restart the computer.

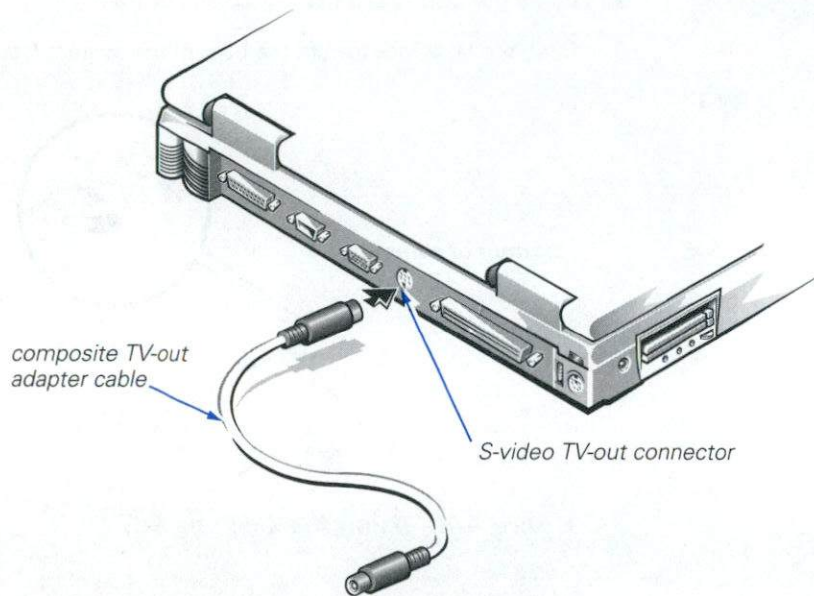


Figure 4-9. Using the Composite TV-Out Adapter Cable



*NOTE: If you are outside the U.S., you may need to change the **Television Type** setting in the Setup program. See the System User's Guide for more information.*

To connect external speakers to the computer, see the section "Speakers," later in this chapter. If you want to connect the television speakers to the computer, you may need an additional audio adapter that is available at most electronics stores.

Using Plug and Play Devices

Plug and Play is an industry-standard specification that enables you to add certain devices to your computer, which, after you restart your computer, are automatically detected and configured for use with your computer. A Plug and Play device requires an operating system that has Plug and Play technology implemented, such as Windows 98. Examples of Plug and Play devices are a mouse, joystick, USB speakers, and Peripheral Component Interconnect (PCI) expansion cards. To ensure that a device is Plug and Play-compatible, see the manufacturer's documentation that came with the device.

To install a Plug and Play device on a system running Windows 98, perform the following steps:

1. Save and exit any application programs and files you have open.
2. Shut down Windows 98.
For instructions, see the section, "Shutting Down Your Computer," in Chapter 3.
3. Turn off and unplug the computer.
4. Connect the device to the computer according to the manufacturer's instructions.
5. Plug in and turn on the computer.

When Windows 98 starts, a **New Hardware Found** window appears to indicate that the device has been detected and configured.



*NOTE: To install and configure a non-Plug and Play device for use with Windows 98, access the **Add New Hardware** tab by clicking the **Start** button, pointing to **Settings**, clicking **Control Panel**, and double-clicking the **Add New Hardware** icon. Follow the instructions displayed to install the non-Plug and Play device.*

CD-ROM and DVD-ROM Drives

Your computer came with either a CD-ROM or DVD-ROM drive. Both drives read audio CDs and a variety of other CD formats. The DVD-ROM drive also plays digital versatile discs (DVDs).



CAUTION: Do not use the CD-ROM drive while the computer is in motion. Doing so could interrupt the flow of data between the CD-ROM drive and the hard-disk drive or diskette drive.

To use a disc in the drive, follow these steps:

1. Press the open/close button on the front of the drive to open the disc tray.



CAUTION: Do not press down on the disc tray when opening or closing it.

2. Place the disc in the center of the disc tray with the label side facing up.
3. Center the disc on the spindle, as shown in Figure 4-10. Then gently press the CD or DVD down on both sides of the spindle until the disc snaps into place.

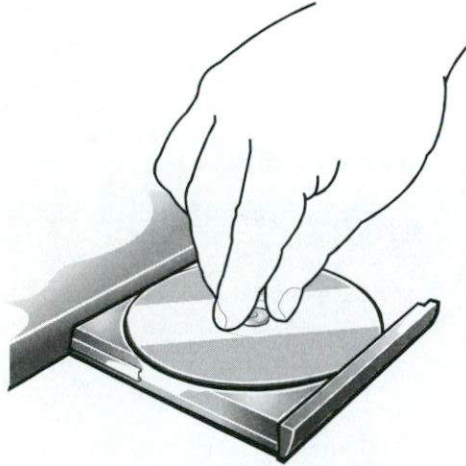


Figure 4-10. Inserting a Disc Into the Drive

If the disc is not properly seated, the disc and CD-ROM or DVD-ROM drive will be damaged.

4. Close the tray by pressing the open/close button or by lightly pressing the front edge of the tray (the tray will automatically close). You can use key combinations to control the volume.



NOTE: High-speed CD-ROM or DVD-ROM drives spin the disc at a very high rotational speed and may be noisy. If a disc has printing on only half of the disc, or if there is a slight imbalance in the disc, the imbalance is greatly magnified by the high speed and the noise is louder. This effect is inherent in the high-speed technology and does not indicate a problem with the drive.

When the drive is in use, the LED blinks on the front of the drive bezel.

When using a CD-ROM or DVD-ROM drive, follow these guidelines:

- Disable the autoplay feature while you are using the drive.
- Never use damaged, broken, or deformed discs.
- Do not press the open/close button while the computer is accessing a disc.
- Keep the disc tray closed when not using the drive.

Speakers

You can connect speakers, a microphone, headphones, and record/playback devices such as cassette players, CD players, and VCRs to the sound jacks on the computer. Dell recommends using amplified speakers for the best sound.

Connect headphones or speakers to the line-out jack on the far right of the sound jacks (see Figure 4-11). Connect a microphone to the microphone jack in the middle. Connect record/playback devices such as cassette players, CD players, and VCRs to the line-in jack on the far left.

See your Windows 98 documentation for the location of sound application programs such as mixers and volume control.

You can control the sound coming from the external speakers, as well as the sound from the computer's built-in speakers from the volume control dial (see Figure 4-11). You can also use the keyboard to adjust the volumes. Press <Fn><Page Down> to lower the volume. Press <Fn><Page Up> to increase the volume. Press <Fn><End> to enable or disable both the built-in and external speakers.

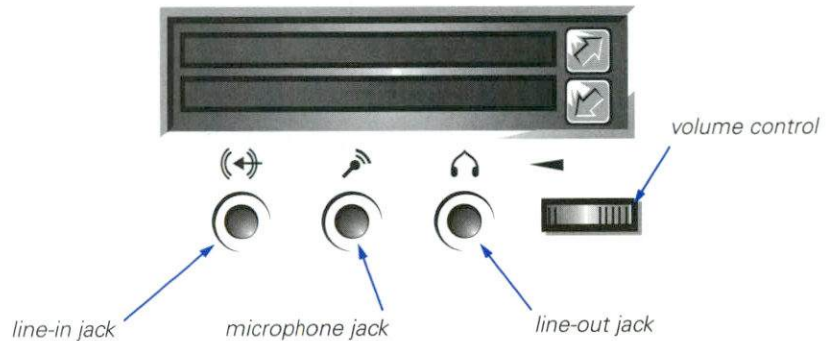


Figure 4-11. Audio Jacks and Volume Control



NOTE: If no sound comes from the speakers, make sure that the sound is not disabled by pressing <Fn><End>, and checking the volume control dial.

When you adjust the volume knob on some USB speakers, a window pops up on your screen that provides various audio controls. For information on using this interface, refer to the documentation that came with the speakers.

Port Replicator

The I/O connectors on the back of the Dell Inspiron 7000 Port Replicator duplicate those on the back of your computer, so you can attach any external device to the replicator that you can attach to the computer. In addition to the standard I/O connectors, the replicator has an additional PS/2 connector, audio connectors, and a security cable slot.

Connecting the Replicator to the Computer

To connect the computer to the replicator, follow these steps:

1. Save all your work, and exit all open application programs.
2. Turn off the computer.
3. Connect the AC adapter to the replicator, and plug the AC power cable into an electrical outlet.
4. Place the computer on the replicator platform, with the back of the computer facing the replicator's docking connector.

Make sure that the grooves on the bottom of the computer align properly with the platform rails.

5. Position your fingers on the platform grips, and use your thumbs to push the computer forward until the docking connectors are fully engaged.

Detaching the Computer From the Replicator

To detach the computer from the replicator, follow these steps:

1. Make sure that there is a charged battery in the computer.
2. Turn off the computer.
3. Pull both the release handles on the sides of the replicator to undock the computer (see Figure 4-12).

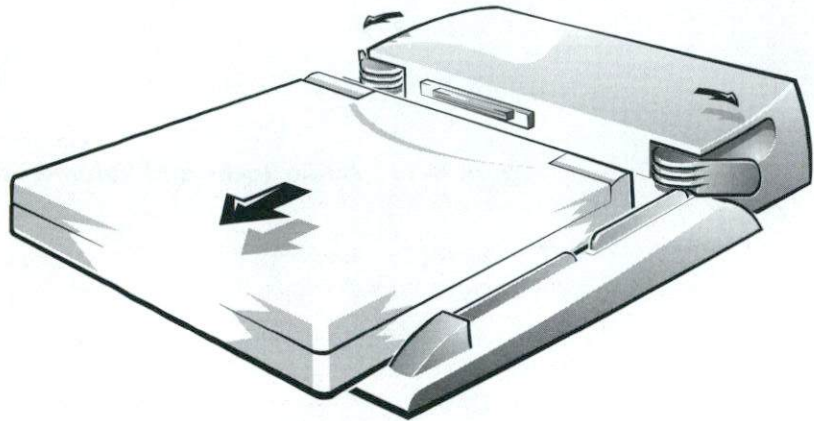


Figure 4-12. Detaching the Computer From the Replicator

Adding a Printer



CAUTION: To maintain a strong signal from the computer, use a bidirectional parallel cable measuring 10 feet or less. Longer cables may prevent the printer from operating properly.

Most printers come with specific instructions for connection and installation of necessary software and drivers. If your printer does not, follow these steps:

1. Turn off the computer and any attached devices. Then disconnect them from their AC power sources.
2. Connect the printer cables as instructed in the printer documentation.
3. Reconnect the computer system to AC power. Turn on the printer, and then turn on the computer system.
4. If the printer is not automatically detected during operating system start-up, double-click the **My Computer** icon on your desktop.
5. Double-click the **Printers** folder.
6. Double-click the **Add Printer** icon.
7. In the **Printer Wizard** dialog box, click either the **My Computer** option or the **Network Printer Server** option and then click **Next>**.
8. Click the port that you want to use.

Choose the computer port to which you connected the printer. The parallel port with the printer icon is LPT1, and is the most commonly used printer port. The serial port, marked with "I/O," is the COM port. Refer to the printer documentation to determine which port to use.

Verify that the port you chose is not already assigned to another device. If necessary, add a port or configure a port by using the buttons in the **Printer Wizard** dialog box.

9. Select the printer manufacturer and model from the list provided, or click **Have Disk...** if your printer is not listed and the printer drivers are on a diskette.

Refer to the documentation that came with your printer for more information.

10. Provide the printer name (up to 31 characters) and click **Next>**.
11. Indicate whether the printer will be shared with other network users by clicking either the **Shared** or **Not shared** option.

If the printer will be shared, the **Connect to Printer** dialog box appears. Continue to step 12.

If the printer will not be shared, go to step 14.

12. Select your printer from the list provided or type the printer name, and then click **OK**.

13. Select all the operating systems (from the list provided) required to print to the shared printer.
14. Click **Next** to continue.
15. Select **Yes** or **No** to indicate whether you want to print a test page. Then click **Finish**.

System Upgrades

You can purchase various upgrades for your computer, including memory, hard-disk drives, printers, scanners, and so on. Refer to the *System User's Guide* for information on upgrading your system.



CHAPTER 5

Frequently Asked Questions

Many common questions about your Dell computer are answered in this chapter. If you do not find a solution, refer to the "Contacting Dell" section of the *System User's Guide*. For troubleshooting tips and diagnostic tools, refer to the *Reference and Troubleshooting Guide*.

General Questions

How do I access the System User's Guide for information about my system?

To open the guide, click the **Online User's Guide** icon on your desktop.

Where can I find the specifications for my system? For my installed devices?

System specifications are provided in the "Specifications" section of the *System User's Guide* and in Appendix A, "Technical Specifications" of the *Reference and Troubleshooting Guide*. Specifications for installed devices can be found in the device manufacturer's documentation that came with your system.

Software Questions

I've lost the Dell Channel. How do I get it back?

The Dell Channel can be downloaded from the Dell Channel subscription page at <http://www.dell.com/getie4>.

Is there a new BIOS available for my system? Should I update?

Updates for the basic input/output system (BIOS) are available from Dell's File Library; they are released to either fix problems or add features. You should probably not

upgrade your BIOS unless it is recommended by a Dell technician or you are experiencing problems with your hardware configuration. Always read the release notes included with the update thoroughly before making a decision to upgrade your BIOS.

Will my system correctly handle the Year 2000 problem?

Your computer is set to automatically correct the date after 1/1/2000 occurs. It will then continue to keep and update dates correctly. For more information about Year 2000 issues, refer to the Research and Development section of the Dell Web site (<http://www.dell.com>).

Hardware Questions

The formatted capacity of my hard-disk drive seems to be smaller than what I ordered. Where is the missing space?

The operating system reports drive capacity assuming that 1 megabyte (MB) equals 1,048,576 bytes. This calculation is technically correct.

Drive manufacturers compute the size differently. They consider 1 MB to equal 1,000,000 bytes. This difference can cause confusion! If the drive is advertised as 4.3 gigabytes (GB) (4,300,000,000 bytes), the operating system sees it as approximately 4.1 GB ($4,300,000,000 / 1,048,576 / 1000 = 4.100799560547$).

There is no sound coming from my computer. What's wrong?

You can control the sound coming from your computer speakers from the volume control dial located by the PC Card bay. You can also use the keyboard to adjust the volumes.

If no sound comes from the speakers, make sure that the sound is not disabled by pressing <Fn><End>, and checking the volume control dial.

My display is blank! What should I do?

Your computer might be in Standby, which is battery power conservation mode. Press the power button to resume operation.

The *System User's Guide* has more information on conserving battery power.

How do I know how much battery power I have?

Before starting the computer, remove the battery. There is a power gauge on the back that tells you how much power is remaining in the battery.

See the *System User's Guide* for more information on the battery.

You can also double-click on the battery icon in the Windows 98 taskbar for information on battery power. If you are using the AC adaptor, the battery icon does not appear.

My monitor is flashing different colors when I change screens. How do I fix it?

If your monitor is flashing different colors when you change screens, follow these steps:

1. Click the **Start** button, point to **Settings**, and then click **Control Panel**.
2. In the **Control Panel**, double-click the **Display** icon. Then click the **Settings** tab.
3. In the **Colors** box, select **High Color** (16 bit) or **True Color** (32 bit). Then click **OK**.
4. In the **Compatibility Warning** window, click the **Apply the settings without restarting?** radio button, and then click **OK**.
5. When prompted, click **OK** to adjust the display.
6. When prompted, click **Yes** to accept the changes.

Where can I find drivers for my monitor?

Monitors do not require drivers; video cards require drivers. If the question is which monitor to select, choose either the Dell monitor model you have or the Plug and Play monitor (VESA[®] DDC option). If the question is which video drivers to use, use the ones provided with the video card. Newer drivers may also be available from the Dell Web site (<http://www.dell.com>).

Posted on the Dell Web site and the Dell bulletin board service (BBS) is the **dd78906.exe** file. This file self-extracts into **dellmon.inf** and contains information on the latest Dell monitors. To use this file, follow these steps:

1. Download the file onto a diskette, and insert the diskette into the diskette drive *after* the operating system starts.
2. Click the **Start** button, point to **Settings**, and then click **Control Panel**.
3. Double-click the **Display** icon, and then click the **Settings** tab.
4. Click the **Advanced** button, and then click **Monitor**.
5. Click **Change** and then click **Have Disk**. Specify the location of the **dellmon.inf** file (A:).

Getting Help

Dell provides a number of tools to help you if you don't understand a procedure described in this guide or if your system does not perform as expected. For information on these help tools, see Chapter 5, "Getting Help," in the *Reference and Troubleshooting Guide* or the "Contacting Dell" section of the *System User's Guide*.

If you need help with hardware or software that was not Dell-installed, contact the manufacturer of that item. For DellWare items, call 1-800-753-7201 to receive product support information.



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